GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3760
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Utilisation of Forest Land for Projects
Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total forest area used for non-forest purposes, so far;
(b) the details of the project developers who were granted forest land for other purposes; and
(c) the details of the terms and conditions under which the forest land was provided to the project developers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Government of India grants prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to use forest land for the purpose for various development projects. So far, the Central Government has accorded approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 12,06,320 ha of forest land in 25,879 cases since 25.10.1980 to various project developers including Central Government Departments, State Government Departments, Central Public Sector Undertakings, State Government undertakings and private sector undertakings. Use of forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities.

For all purposes, on the request of the State Government, the Central Government considers various proposals for non-forest use of forest land and accords prior approval as per the Rules and Guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulating mitigative measures in the form of general, standard and specific conditions inter-aliaincluding conditions of compensatory afforestation, imposition of Net Present Value (NPV) to reduce the adverse impact of the diversion of forest land, arrangement of alternate fuels, afforestation measures in the blanks within the forest area, phase wise mining operations, management of safety zone, reclamation of quarry, conservation of topsoil, preparation and implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Muck Disposal Plan, maintenance of prescribed Right of Way (RoW), plantation of dwarf species are also stipulated in the approvals granted by the Central Government. in addition to this, the Central Government, based on the recommendation of the FAC, also recommends project specific studies wherever required to assess the impact of project activity on the flora and fauna in the area proposed to be diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
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